THE MINISTER OF RtfRAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YER-RANNAIDU): (a) The mandate of the Department of Wastelands Development is to develop non-forest wastelands for Sustainable use for increasing bio-mass availability, specially fuelwood and fod der on wastershed basis. The Depart ment of Wastelands Development does toot have the mandate to bring wastelands into cultivable land. The Department of Wastelands Development has sanctioned seven Integrated Wastelands Developmeat Projects for the districts of Pudukottai, Periyar, Pasumpon, North Arcot, South Arcot, T. Samuvar-ayar and Coimbatore at a total cost of RS. 1576.09 lakhs for the development of 21,618 ha. of wastelands for a period ranging 3 to 5 years. There is no such selection of option prescribed for sanctioning the Projects. If the project pro-posale are in clDnfonnity with the guidelines of the scheme, the same are sanc-tioned.

(b) Under IWDP Scheme projects are sanctioned under the Guidelines for Wa tershed Development from 1-4.1995 and funds are released to the DRDAs on 100 per cent Grant-in-aid basis. During the last two years i.e. 1995-96 and 1996-97, under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 321.50 lakhs were relea-ased.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

मध्य प्रदेश में गैर जनजातियों के कब्जे में अनुसूचित जनजातियों की जमीन

2435. **श्री दलीप सिंह जूदेव** : क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के प्रत्येक जिले में अनुसूचित जनजातियों की कितनी मात्रा में जमीन गैर जनजातियों के कब्जे में नियम विरुद्ध पाई गई है ,

(ख) उनमें से प्रत्येक जिले में कितनी जमीन अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों को मध्य प्रदेश भू-राजस्व सहिता की धारा 170 (ख) के अन्तर्गत कार्यवाही करके वापस दिलाई गई है,

(ग) भूमि वापस दिलाने के कितने प्रकरण 31.7.97 तक प्रत्येक जिले में विचाराधीन हैं, और

(घ) इस संबंध में लम्बित प्रकरणों को तेजी से निपटाने हेतु की जा रही कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या हैं?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री किंजरापू येरन्नायडु) : (क) से (घ) मध्य प्रदेश राज्य सरकार से सूचना एकत्र की जा रही हैं और सभा-पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Closure of developmental Schemes

2436. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGAR WALLA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken. a decision to close or cut expenditure on 293 developmental schemes mainly undergoing in rural areas viz. Panchayat Swasthya Sewa Scheme, projects for settiag-up cold storage etc. as per the news-item which appeared in "Pioneer" dated the 11th July, 1997; if so, the details thtreof;

(b) the reasons for closure of the above schemes;

(c) whether closure of the above sc-hemes in rural areas will adversely affect principle of social justice to the people living in rural areas; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YER-.RANNAIDU): (a) to (d) The Ministry

of Finance, Department of Expenditure vide their O-M. No. 660.16)-P.F.l9^ dated 12.6.97 have identified 293 schemes as being redundant, non essential and having outlived their utility for wedding out. Among these progranmiesl shcemes, Panchayat Swasthya Sewa Scheme, Department of Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Stitrage including Cold Storage, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agricultun are. included.

The Schemed idetnified for being weeded out are not confined to rural areas, Since the weeding out covers only redundant schemes the decision is not likely to affect people living in rural areas aaversely.

Poverty alleviation scbrmes

2437. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAs AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of povery alleviation schemes being implemented in the country particularly in Punjab at present

(b) the targets fixed and achievements made during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1997-98; and

(c) the details of the necessary steps being taken by Government to remove poverty in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YER-ANNAIDU): (a) to (c) Major poverty alleviation schemes being implemen ted in the country including the State of Punjab are (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), (ii) Jawahar Rozar Yojana (JRY) and (iii) Employment Assu rance Scheme (EAS). The details of targets and achievements during 1994-95. 1995-96 and 1997-98 under these schemes in Punjab and in the country are given in the Statement *(.See* below)

The aims *(d* these schemes are to generate self employment by providing income generating assets to rural poor under IRDP, and to generate additional gainful employment under JRY and EAg to rural poor families to enable them to cross the poverty line and betterment of their lives. With the objective of eliminating poverty in the country, several new packages have been introduced in order lO strengthen the IRDP. These are as follows,

(i) The level of investment per family has been increased to Rs. 15,000/- in 1996-97.

(ii) The subsidy for group venture has been enhanced to Rs. 1.25 lakhs or 50 per cent of the project cost, whichever is less.

(iii) Subsidy to educated rural youths has also been enhanced to Rs. 7500/- or 50 per cent of the project cost, whichever is less.

(iv) Ceiling on infrastructuial development has also been increased to 25 per cent in North Eastern States and 20 per cent in rest of the country.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has also redesigned for the benefit of the rural poor people. The different streams and sub schemes of JRY have been rationalised and simplified and made independent w.e.r. 1-1-1996. Indira Awaas Yojana (lAY) and Million Weils Schemes (MWS) which were sub schemes of JRY with earmarking of funds were made independent schemes by themselves. The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was started w.e.f. 2nd October, 1993 in 1752 identified backward Blocks of 257 districts situated in the drought prone areas, desert areas, tribal areas and hill areas in which the Ravam-ped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was in operation. Subsequently, the scheme has been extended to blocks in drought prone area, deser'